

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT.

Chairman of Council—MR. WM. BAZELEY, J.P.

Chairman of Health and Sanitary Committee—MR. G. H. SKINNER.

Members of Health and Sanitary Committee—

Councillor F. BALLARD.	Councillor G. MILLER, C.C.
„ C. BATES.	„ J. PARAGREEN.
„ WM. BAZELEY, J.P.	„ C. E. BAYES.

Medical Officer of Health—FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.

Sanitary Inspector—WALTER G. F. KINGSTON, A.R.San.I.

SUMMARY.

AREA	3775 Acres.
POPULATION CENSUS—1891	7442
„ „ 1901	12447
ESTIMATED POPULATION	15192
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	2913

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH-RATE PER 1000 LIVING	20·9.
DEATH-RATE PER 1000 LIVING	7·9.
INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS	112·9.

WATER SUPPLY .. HIGHAM FERRERS & RUSHDEN WATER BOARD.

SEWERAGE SEPARATE SYSTEM.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL .. { CHEMICAL PRECIPITATION FOLLOWED
BY LAND TREATMENT.

RUSHDEN,

JANUARY, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

. OF THE .

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report upon the Health of the Urban District of Rushden. The estimated population is 15,192. The majority of the inhabitants are engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes and processes incidental thereto. The growth of the town has been very rapid during the last twenty years and consequently the greater portion is new. Some of older portions however leave a great deal to be desired, and attention will have to be paid to the condition of the old houses running off the High Street to Rectory Road and also in Duck Street.

Birth-rate.

There were registered during the year 310 births, or at the rate of 20·9 per 1000, as compared with 315 at the rate of 22·04 per 1000 last year.

Death-rate.

The deaths from all causes numbered 121, or at the rate of 7·9 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 126, or at the rate of 8·81 per 1000 last year.

Midwives Act.

Only two midwives are on the register.

Infantile
Mortality.

Of the infants under one year of age there were 35 deaths, or at the rate of 112·9 per 1000 registered births, 13 of which were premature, as compared with 25 deaths at the rate of 79·3 per 1000 last year.

Zymotic Diseases.

Zymotic
Diseases.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year is 71.

Small-pox.

No case has been notified.

Diphtheria (and
Membraneous
Croup.)

Fourteen cases were notified, with four deaths (two under five). One case was not notified until the day after death. These cases have all occurred since the beginning of September commencing with two cases in one house in Beaconsfield Place. A remarkable feature of the outbreak is the fact that there seems to be no connection between the cases with the exception of the first two which occurred, and again 3 cases in one house in Moor Road. The drains of the properties concerned have all been examined and disinfection carried out. It has seemed impossible to trace a cause for the outbreak. On finding nothing to account for it at the house or the milk supply I turned by attention to the schools but here again there seems to have been no connection between the cases, as they are, for the most part, attending different schools. I advised that the drains at Moor Road Schools should be tested and this was carried out without any result. All the schools have been cleansed with disinfectants. A satisfactory feature of the outbreak is the exceedingly small death-rate.

Scarlet Fever
(Scarletina)

Forty-four cases were notified, six being under five years of age. All these cases must have been of an exceedingly mild character as no deaths have been recorded.

Enteric Fever
(Typhoid).

Four cases were notified, with no death.

Peuperal Fever.

No case was notified.

Erysipelas.

Nine cases were notified, with no death.

Whooping
Cough
(not notifiable).

Fourteen deaths were notified, seven of which were under one year of age.

Diarrhœa and
Enteritis

Two deaths, both under one year of age.

Measles
(not notifiable).

No deaths have been recorded,

Respiratory Diseases.

Bronchitis and
Pneumonia.

Nine deaths have occurred, four under one year and five over.

Phthisis.

Eleven deaths have been recorded, all between fifteen and sixty-five years of age.

Other Tubercu-
lar Diseases.

Four deaths have been recorded.

Influenza.

Four deaths have occurred.

Heart Disease.

Eight deaths have occurred, two between fifteen and twenty-five years, three between twenty-five and sixty-five, and three over sixty-five years of age.

Cancer and
Malignant
Disease.

Eight deaths have occurred, three between twenty-five and sixty-five and five over sixty-five years.

Accidents and
Suicide.

Accidents have been the cause of two deaths and Suicide one.

Remarks.

It is satisfactory to note that there has been a further reduction in the death-rate, amounting to only 7·9 per 1000, the average for the whole of England and Wales being 15. This shows that the sanitary condition of the town has been well looked after.

Infantile Mortality has increased from 79·3 per 1000 to 112·9 per 1000, although a Health Visitor has been appointed to visit the new-born infants.

Phthisis.

Fourteen voluntary notifications of Consumption have been received from Medical Practitioners, and all houses in which deaths have occurred and which have been brought to the notice of the Department have been fumigated with the consent of the owners.

Prevention of
Phthisis.

The deaths from Phthisis, as will be seen, were only eleven, being precisely as last year. A great deal has been written during the last few

months on the prevention of Phthisis, but the only thing that has been recommended is the building of sanatoria and the removal of patients to those institutions for treatment. Some have certainly received benefit and in the early stages may have been cured for a time, the majority, however, have derived no permanent benefit. As long as they remained in the institution they experienced a certain amount of benefit, but as soon as they returned to their own houses they relapsed to their former state. There has been a large increase of insanity during the past few years and asylums have had to be enlarged and new ones built, but no one has suggested a crusade against the increase of insanity. The surest way to prevent consumption is by adopting a different mode of living. Agricultural Small Holdings and Afforestation, by giving occupation on the land, and thus relieving the congested population of towns, will do more to prevent both diseases than any Act of Parliament.

Factories and
Workshops.

There are 172 Factories and Workshops on the Register and these have been regularly inspected. A detailed account of which is included in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Well-Water.

I have analysed four samples of well-water during the year. Two were found totally unfit for drinking purposes. With the plentiful supply of excellent water available, all the remaining private supplies from wells should be abolished.

Sewage and
Drainage.

Sewage and drainage is under constant supervision and shows marked improvement. The great majority of pail closets have been abolished, and, with the necessary addition of a large number of water closets, great pressure has been brought to bear upon the limited capacities at the sewage farm, but up to the present there has been nothing to complain of.

A brook running into the Washbrook was found to be polluted with gas liquor and this has since been remedied.

Dilapidated
Houses.

Four houses in Albion Place, which were unfit for human habitation, have now been put into a state of repair.

Two houses in Duck Street have been closed as unfit for human habitation.

Dairies and
Cowsheds.

A Veterinary Inspector has been appointed as Assistant Sanitary Inspector, and a summary of his reports will be found attached.


Before closing my remarks I cannot refrain from speaking of the exceedingly able manner in which your Inspector (Mr. W. G. F. Kingston) has carried out the very heavy duties of his office and thank him for the assistance he has so courteously rendered in carrying out our united duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,

Fel. Royal Inst. of Public Health.



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SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL BUILDINGS,
RUSHDEN,

1st FEBRUARY, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

. OF THE .

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Report of the Sanitary Condition of the Urban District of Rushden and of the work executed under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, and other Acts, for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

The statistics refer only to the seven months during which I have held office.

Additional
Powers, etc.

The Bye-laws adopted during the year 1907 for the prevention of nuisances arising from snow, filth, dust, ashes, or rubbish, and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to be injurious to health, came into operation on the 1st January, and Parts 2, 3, and 4 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were adopted and came into operation on the 1st October. These add greatly to the efficient working of the Department and to the safeguarding of the health of the people.

House to House Inspections.

Little has been done in systematic house-to-house inspection as it is desirable that work of this nature should be done in the spring of the year. Three hundred and two houses were inspected in various parts of the town and a considerable number of nuisances arising from structural defects, as well as from carelessness on the part of the occupiers, were discovered and dealt with. This work is of an extremely delicate nature, but no friction has so far been caused. I intend, if possible, to commence a systematic inspection of cottage property in the district in March of this present year.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

One notice was served under Part II., Section 32, of this Act, referring to 61 and 61a, Duck Street, and these houses are now closed as unfit for human habitation.

Notices served.

163 Preliminary Notices were served, and 66 letters were written to owners or agents *re* nuisances. In most of these cases the nuisances were abated, but in 8 cases nothing was done, and, acting on your instructions, Statutory Notices were served. It was not found necessary to take proceedings in any instance.

Drainage.

House Drainage has received careful attention. The smoke test has been applied on 17 occasions to old drains with the result that, in some cases, very serious defects were discovered and the drains concerned taken up and re-laid. 47 water-closets have been connected to the sewer. In 22 cases the pail system for the disposal of excremental matter has been done away with and the water carriage system adopted. In 6 instances the drains were disconnected from the storm-water drains and brook and connected to the sewer. In June many complaints were received of the smells arising from the watercourse discharging into the Washbrook at Washbrook Road, and, after investigation, it was discovered that an effluent containing sulphuretted hydrogen was being discharged into it from the gas works. I communicated with the Gas Manager in the matter,

with the result that the latter fixed a trap on the condensing pipes from the ammonia plant to the oxide purifiers, returning the products of condensation (steam and sulphuretted hydrogen) to the ammoniacal liquor tank, thus preventing any overflow into the drain.

Water Supply.

The water supply is excellent in quality and abundant in quantity in the district. Two Surface wells have been closed during the period under consideration and the premises connected with the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board's supply. Four samples of water have been submitted for analysis with the result that in two cases the water was found to be contaminated by surface pollution and the wells closed.

I am indebted to the Surveyor to the Water Board for the following particulars. The average daily consumption was 10·5 gallons per head of the population.

19 new supplies from the water mains to houses, etc., 41 extensions of services to supply w.c.'s in houses, factories, etc., have been completed during the year.

The rainfall for the year in Rushden has been 18·230 inches.

The major portion of the town is now connected to the sewers and town water laid on.

Removal of House Refuse.

1,457 loads of house refuse have been removed during the year, giving an average of about 28 loads per week.

An improvement of great value from a Sanitary point of view has been effected in connection with the removal of House Refuse. It has hitherto been the custom for the occupiers of the houses to carry the refuse receptacles to the fronts and deposit them on the kerbstone or adjacent thereto from whence they were collected by the Council employees. This was anything but satisfactory as the receptacles used were of a most insanitary character and often in a very dilapidated condition and nearly all without covers. To give an idea of what the receptacles usually consisted of, it would perhaps be interesting if I gave you

the result of what I discovered in one street taken at random, 24 old pails, 24 wooden boxes, 16 old tins, 1 old wooden tub, and 2 old tin baths. In November it was decided that the work of refuse removal should be carried on from the rear of the houses, and in the month following the Council resolved to require all owners to provide suitable receptacles where such were not already in use.

Paving of Back
Yards.

A great deal still remains to be done in this connection. 56 yards and approaches have been paved or repaired but many are still in a very bad state and require attention at once.

Public and
Private Urinals.

These are regularly inspected. Those attached to the various public-houses are kept in a very fair condition, but some need much attention. Many complaints have been made as to customers of the Premises known as the Queen Victoria Hotel mis-using the Public Urinal near the station. The attention of the owners of these premises has been drawn to the lack of urinal accommodation for the use of their customers using the second class bar, and orders have been given to provide a two stall circular backed convenience at the rear of the Hotel. The public urinal is kept in a clean and satisfactory condition and cleaned daily.

Infectious
Disease.

A total of 71 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified during the year. These have all been kept under observation and disinfectants supplied to the infected houses. 42 houses and rooms have been fumigated after convalescence.

Fourteen voluntary notifications of consumption have been received from Medical Practitioners and eight houses and rooms have been fumigated from which patients have been removed. Cards urging the public to take precautions against the spread of the disease have been printed and distributed in all Factories and Public Buildings in the district and leaflets giving simple advice to patients and their friends have been left at the houses where the disease was known to

exist. The small-pox isolation hospital is regularly inspected and no repairs have been necessary during the year.

Slaughterhouses

There are eight slaughterhouses on the Register, of which three only are subject to annual licence. I have always found the occupiers obliging and willing to carry out any suggestions with regard to cleanliness, etc., but some of the older premises leave a lot to be desired structurally. The quality of the meat sold in this district is exceedingly good as compared with many other districts of a similar kind. 185 visits have been paid to slaughterhouses and 278 visits to butchers' shops, fishmongers', etc.

Factory and Workshops Acts

During the year the premises coming under these Acts have been periodically inspected and a record of the work done will be found in the Appendix.

Two Notices were received from one of H.M. Inspectors of Factories calling attention to the want of sufficient w.c. accommodation for the use of the females employed in two of our factories. In one instance there were 123 females employed and only four w.c.'s provided, and in the other case 83 females employed and two w.c.'s provided. In both cases this was remedied and one w.c. provided for the use of each 25 of the workers, which is the rule followed in this District. In two other factories I found that proper precautions had not been taken to screen off the w.c.'s for the use of the women workers from those allocated to the men, one factory had no water closet for the use of the females, and another had none for the use of the male workers. These matters have all been brought to the notice of the employers concerned and remedied.

Seventy-seven lists of outworkers have been received relating to 1,237 outworkers. These figures include six lists relating to 22 outworkers received from other local authorities. 55 lists relating to 205 outworkers have been forwarded to other local authorities. The work at which the outworkers were engaged was principally connected with boot and shoe making and processes incidental thereto.

During the month of July I discovered a person who was in attendance on a child suffering from Scarlet Fever was obtaining work from one of the Factories through another person. I immediately took steps to thoroughly disinfect the work and to prevent any more work going into the house until after the house had been pronounced free from infection by the medical man in attendance.

Bakehouses.

There are 18 bakehouses on the Register and these are regularly visited. Attention was called to the necessity for white-washing in several instances and this received prompt attention.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are 45 names on the Register carrying on the trade of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk, 30 being cowkeepers and dairymen and 15 purveyors of milk, 6 of the latter residing out of the district.

The cowsheds are for the most part in good condition, but greater attention must be paid to the proper drainage of the yards through which the cows have to pass on their way to be milked. It was necessary on three occasions to draw the attention of the dairymen to the fact that the yards were so filthy that the cows' udders would not only be splashed but would touch the filth as the animals walked through.

Greater attention must be given also to the provisions of sub-section 5 of Section 17 of the Regulations relating to the cleanliness of the udders and teats of the animals and of the hands of the person milking. It has been found necessary to point this out on several occasions.

Three cowsheds have been both re-drained and re-floored.

One cowshed has been re-floored.

Veterinary
Inspector's
Report.

The cows are examined quarterly by Mr. J. Bainbridge, M.R.C.V.S. and a summary of his reports will be found in Appendix 1.

Nuisance
Bye-laws.

Ten infringements of the Bye-laws have been discovered and brought to the notice of those concerned. The Bye-law principally infringed was that referring to the keeping of swine within a distance of 80 feet from a dwelling-house. In one case it was found necessary to issue a summons against a pig keeper in the district for keeping a large number of swine within the specified distance but on his disposing of those which he was keeping and giving an undertaking not to keep any more on the premises complained of, the summons was withdrawn.

Knacker's Yard.

One Knacker's business is carried on in the district. The situation of this is excellent, being right on the outskirts of the district, but complaint had to be made that proper care was not being taken with regard to the effluent which was being allowed to run down a watercourse into a pond used by cattle for drinking purposes. The owner's attention was called to this matter, and arrangements have been made to prevent a recurrence of the nuisance complained of.

Offensive Trade

One offensive trade is carried on in the district, that of blood and bone boiler, in conjunction with the knacker's yard.

Schools.

The drainage, sanitary appliances, and fittings at all the schools have been examined. The drains at Moor Road Schools were tested by means of the smoke test, but no defects were discovered. The sanitary accommodation at the Alfred Street Schools is anything but satisfactory.

Burning of
Leather Bits,&c.

Attention has to be called to the practice of burning leather bits in the Factories and Workshops and also in some cases in private houses. This is the cause of a serious nuisance, as in many cases the chimneys are too low and also on account of the offensive and dangerous nature of the smoke generated by the burning of pieces of the chemically tanned leather used for making the boot uppers.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks for the support I have received from my Committee and the Council, and also for the kindness and courtesy I have received from my brother officers.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER G. F. KINGSTON,

Assoc. Royal Sanitary Inst.

Member San. Insp. Association.

Member Incor. San. Assoc. Scotland.

APPENDIX I.

SUMMARY OF VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S REPORTS.

	1907.	1908.
<i>For the three months ending March 31.</i>		
Premises visited	29	28
Cows and Heifers inspected	301	276
<i>Result of Examination:</i>		
Abnormal udders	14	12
Cows giving curdled milk	2	2
Cows with tumours on jaw	—	1
Cows with tumours on throat	—	2
<i>For the three months ending June 30.</i>		
Premises visited	28	28
Milch Cows and Heifers examined	258	266
<i>Result of Examination:</i>		
Abnormal udders	10	10
Cows with tumours on the throat	3	—
Cows with abscess on the throat	1	—
Cow giving curdled milk	1	—
Cow with abscess on jaw	—	1
<i>For the three months ending September 30.</i>		
Premises visited	28	28
Milch Cows and Heifers examined	258	257
<i>Result of Examination:</i>		
Abnormal udders	9	7
Cows with tumour on the throat	3	1
Cows with tumour on the jaw	—	1
Cow with abscess on the jaw	—	1
Cows in low condition	2	—
<i>For the three months ending December 31.</i>		
Premises visited	28	28
Milch Cows and Heifers examined	277	278
<i>Result of Examination:</i>		
Abnormal udders	8	7
Cow with diseased udder	1	—
Cow with tumour on the throat	1	1
Cows with tumour on the jaw	—	2
Cow with small abscess on the jaw	1	—

38 out of the 41 abnormal udders in 1907 were atrophied. 31 out of 36 in the year 1908.

It will be seen by comparing the figures for the two years that there is an improvement in the state of the health of the cattle in the district. The number of milch cows and heifers examined was 1077 as compared with 1094 last year,

APPENDIX II.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOP, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1. INSPECTION.						
PREMISES.				<i>Number of Inspections.</i>	<i>Number of Written Notices.</i>	
Factories	..	..	..	63	5	
Workshops	..	..	..	113	2	
Workplaces	..	..	..	2	—	
Homeworkers' Premises	..	..	..	657	—	
Total	..	..	..	835	7	

2. DEFECTS FOUND.						
PARTICULARS.				<i>Number of Defects Found. Remedied.</i>		
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—*						
Want of Cleanliness	..	..	..	20		20
Overcrowding	..	..	..	1		1
†Sanitary Accommodation—						
Insufficient	..	..	..	5		5
Unsuitable or defective	..	..	..	2		1
Total	..	..	..	18		17

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8 of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

† Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council. Standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops adopted is that recommended by the Home Secretary in the Home Office order of 4th February, 1903.

APPENDIX III.

NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed	27
Houses without sufficient light and ventilation improved	4
Defective and dangerous chimneys repaired	7
Choked and defective eaves spouting cleansed or repaired	24
Foul yards and outbuildings cleansed	29
Defective yard paving repaired, and yards in which surface paving has been provided	41
External walls pointed and repaired	11
Dangerous wells or cisterns filled in or covered ..	3
Wells closed and town water laid on	2
Water-closets substituted for pail system	22
Premises drained and connected to sewer or cesspool ..	4
Defective drains taken up and re-laid	10
Old bell traps removed and replaced by stoneware gully traps	29
House drains disconnected from storm-water drains and connected to sewer	6
Choked drains opened and cleansed	18
Choked and defective water-closets cleansed or repaired	20
Foul unused water-closets abolished	1
Foul urinals cleansed or removed	4
Additional urinal accommodation provided	1
Additional water-closet accommodation provided in factories or workshops	6
Foul w.c.'s cleansed	2
Foul w.c.'s in factories and workshops cleansed	56
Workshops and outworkers' premises limewashed and cleansed	86
Accumulations of manure, etc.	11
Want of manure receptacles	8
Animals improperly kept	10
Foul and undrained stables	3

APPENDIX IV.

Cases of infectious diseases investigated	58
Re-inspections	116
Houses disinfected	42
Voluntary notifications of Consumption	14
Houses disinfected after Consumption	8
House-to-house inspection	302
Miscellaneous inspections, including common yards, and houses inspected after complaints	1191
Outworkers' premises inspected	657
Re-inspections	251
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	185
„ Factories	63
„ Workshops	113
„ Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	104
„ Fishmongers, Butchers, etc.	278
„ Bakehouses	104
„ Schools	12
Samples of water taken for analysis	4
Drains examined by smoke test	61
Inspection of vans and tents	37
Informal intimations issued	163
Statutory notices served	8
Letters written to owners <i>re</i> nuisances	66